

Influenza Situational Report – week ending January 3, 2015

Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during the week of 12/21/2015 through 12/27/2015 – On some days, an increase in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory” related complaints was reported.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during the week of 12/21/2015 through 12/27/2015: Sales of over the counter (OTC) medications cold relief, antifever, and/or cough syrup, were above the reporting threshold at either the county or zip code levels.*

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Network - percentage of all outpatient visits due to an influenza-like illness

- *Travis County – for the week ending 12/20/2014: 11.0% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – For the week ending 12/20/2014: 14.6% (base line is 5.4%); statewide this percentage is **trending up** since late November 2014.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 12/27/2014: 5.9% (base line is 2.0%); this percentage has been **trending up** since late November 2014*

Laboratory surveillance (RT-PCR – real time- polymerase chain reaction)

- *State of Texas – for the week ending 12/20/2014; 31% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a majority (94%) were influenza A viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 12/27/2014; 30.4% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (97%) are positive for influenza A viruses*

Institutional Outbreaks

- *Two outbreaks of respiratory illness reported from long-term care facilities.*

School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

Influenza-associated mortality

- *As of 1/3/2015, there have been six (6) deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) in Austin during the current flu season; all six person were adults 18 years of age or older. The number of influenza-associated deaths reported during the prior five influenza seasons ranged from 2 to 23.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 12/27/2014; 6.8% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This percentage was **below** the epidemic threshold of 6.9% for this week.*